

CLAIMS

1. A method of exchanging user-specific data from a mobile network to a service application of an external service provider, wherein certain user data is needed by the application for providing a requested service to a mobile user, **characterised by** the following steps:
 - A) generating a unique Application User Identification (AUID) code which is assigned to a combination of the mobile user and the application,
 - B) sending the assigned AUID code to the application,
 - C) receiving from the application a request for the needed user data together with an AUID code,
 - D) determining whether the application is allowed to retrieve the requested user data, and if so
 - E) retrieving the requested user data based on the received AUID code and sending the user data to the application.
2. A method according to claim 1, **characterised in** that the AUID code is generated in step A) in response to receiving a service request from a mobile user.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, **characterised in** that the AUID code is stored in a translation table together with a mobile user identity and an application identity.
4. A method according to claim 3, **characterised in** that the mobile user identity is obtained from the translation table based on the AUID code received in step C), for retrieving the requested user data in step E) from a user

data base in which user-specific data is stored for mobile users being registered in the mobile network.

5 5. A method according to any of claims 1 - 4, **characterised in** that the AUID code is used by the application for attributing the user data sent in step E), to the service upon subsequent access of the mobile user to the same service.

10 6. A method according to any of claims 1 - 5, **characterised in** that the determining step D) is performed by checking a permission table specifying the types of user data that each service application is allowed to receive from the mobile network.

15 7. A method according to claim 6, **characterised in** that a permission table is maintained for a specific user or group of users.

20 8. A method according to claim 6 or 7, **characterised in** that an error message is sent if it is determined in step D) that the application is not allowed to retrieve the requested user data.

25 9. A method according to any of claims 1 - 8, **characterised in** that new AUID codes are generated by dividing the decimal representation of a non-periodic irrational number into blocks of a certain length, wherein each block is used as an AUID code.

30 10. A method according to any of claims 1 - 9, **characterised by** the step of determining whether a valid mobile user

identity exists that corresponds to the AUID code received in step C) in order to check if the application is authorised.

5 11.A data control server for exchanging user-specific data from a mobile network to a service application of an external service provider, wherein certain user data is needed by the application for providing a requested service to a mobile user, **characterised by:**

- 10 - means for generating a unique Application User Identification (AUID) code which is assigned to a combination of the mobile user and the application,
- means for sending the assigned AUID code to the application,
- 15 - means for receiving from the application a request for the needed user data together with an AUID code,
- means for determining whether the application is allowed to retrieve the requested user data, and
- means for retrieving the requested user data based on a received AUID code and sending the user data to the
- 20 application.

12.A server according to claim 11, **characterised by** a permission table specifying the types of user data that each service application is allowed to receive from the

25 mobile network.

13.A server according to claim 11 or 12, **characterised by** a translation table for storing the AUID code together with a mobile user identity and an application identity.

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14.A server according to claim 13, **characterised by** a translator for translating AUID codes into mobile user identities and vice versa by checking the translation table.

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15.A server according to any of claims 11 - 14, **characterised in** that the code generating means is capable of generating new AUID codes by dividing the decimal representation of a non-periodic irrational number into blocks of a certain length, wherein each block is used as an AUID code.

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16.A server according to any of claims 11 - 15, **characterised by** a mobile network interface for receiving service requests from mobile users, and for retrieving user data.

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17.A server according to any of claims 11 - 16, **characterised by** an external provider interface for receiving requests for user data from service applications, and for responding with either the requested data or an appropriate error message.

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18.A computer program product comprising software code means adapted to cause a data control server to perform the method of any of claims 1 - 10.

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